



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & ECONOMIC GROWTH
LANSING

KEITH W. COOLEY
DIRECTOR

To: State and Oakland County Boundary Commissioners

From: Christine Holmes
State Boundary Commission

Date: December 3, 2007

Subject: **ADJUDICATIVE SUMMARY - DOCKET #06-I-3**
**Petition proposing the Incorporation of the Village of Oxford
as a Home Rule City**

In addition to other information and comments submitted during the public hearing, the 30-day comment period, and the 7-day rebuttal period, this docket summary is to provide assistance in your adjudicative deliberation and decision-making in consideration of the 18 point evaluation criteria.

Information on the record from the Village of Oxford:

This is a full service Village looking to become a full service City with its own charter.

If incorporated, the Village of Oxford would not be required to subsidize overlapping services with the Township of Oxford. However, city incorporation will not affect interest to cooperate and share services with the Township.

Village residents pay the following millages:

▪ Township-levied:	
.9500	Township Operating
1.5000	Fire/EMS
1.0000	ALS
0.8800	Fire Debt (expires December 2014)
0.6764 and 0.7218	Library
0.4100	Library Debt (expires May 2016)
<u>0.8538</u>	Parks and Recreation (expires December 2009)
6.9920	Total

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- Village (unit):
11.1200 General Operating
- Total millage paid by Village residents:
18.1120

Of the three cemeteries currently in the township, one is located in the village. If incorporated, it will become the responsibility of the proposed city.

A fiduciary fund (Cemetery Maintenance Fund) provides for the perpetual care of the cemeteries. Based upon the asset and liability distribution by state statute, a prorated share of that perpetual maintenance fund would flow to the new city based upon the obligation for the cemetery.

The Village of Oxford provides the following services:

- Police Department
 - Officers: 5 full-time / 4 part time
 - Dispatchers: 3 full-time / 6 part-time
- Department of Public Works
(maintenance for streets, water, sewer, parks, and buildings)
- Public Water
(other than Village residents, water is also provided to a few areas of the Township)
- Downtown Development Authority
- Master Plan and Zoning Ordinance
- Sanitary Sewer: provided to Village through Oakland County Drain Commission and the Detroit Water and Sewer Department.

If incorporated as a city, the following services will be provided:

- Elections
- Assessing (currently conducted by County)
- School tax collection

Village taxpayers would have a tax reduction of \$125,000 that is currently being paid to the Township.

The Village estimates a cost of approximately \$25,000 for assessing services by either:

- a) hiring own part-time assessor.
- b) continuing to have the County provide this service.

As a result of area growth in population, business, and technology, the Village Council was able to reduce the tax rate by 1.5 mills (12%) in 2006.

In the 7-day rebuttal material, the Village attorney reiterated the "strong support" of the Village of Oxford, the petitioner, and the Citizens of the Village of Oxford for the opportunity to vote on the proposed incorporation.

Information on the record from Oxford Charter Township:

The Township provides the following services:

- Fire protection* (main fire station is located within Village limits)
- Assessing
- Elections (the cost of village elections are paid by the Village)
- Collection of school taxes
- Public Water
 - The water treatment plan is owned by Oxford Township and the Oakland County Drain Commission. The Township and County are currently under an MDEQ administrative consent order for violation of the arsenic limit.
- Sanitary Sewer
- Parks and Recreation
- Library
- Land Use plan

* Fire Protection: In January 2006, the Oakland County Circuit Court ordered dissolution of a joint Township-Village fire authority, which was a longstanding intergovernmental agreement. Final dissolution of assets is pending with a court-appointed arbitrator

The cityhood petition is not particularly resident driven.

The Township is interested in cooperation and coordination of services rather than division and separation.

In the Commission's questionnaire, the Township state that they have no formal position on the proposed incorporation and that the future of the Village will be determined by its own residents.

In the 7-day rebuttal material, the Township Supervisor wrote that "a majority of the new Oxford Village Council have stated publicly that they are not in favor of cityhood and would prefer to remain a Village. Most are looking for additional ways to cooperate and share governmental services, which is a must in this age of severely declining revenues."

Other Information from the Record:

The petition requested incorporation of the existing village. A boundary adjustment has not been made by the Commission.

The land area of Village is 1.43 sq. miles.

Population (2000 federal census):

Village:	3,540 (increased by 20.9% from 1990 to 2000).
Township:	16,025

SEV 2006 (Real & Personal):

Village	\$ 184,778,140
Township:	\$1,081,598,010

The petition filed with the Boundary Commission contained 346 signatures, 306 of which were determined to be valid.